Decreasing trend of research

†1439. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the increase in number of research students recorded in the country during the last five years;

(b) whether it is a fact that due to growing trend of professional courses in the country, student's interest towards research is decreasing and if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government is considering to formulate a separate policy to boost research education;

(d) whether Government is considering to enter into agreement with Foreign Universities in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (e) Looking at the declining quality and quantum of scientific research in India, a Task Force under the Chairmanship of Prof. M.M. Sharma was constituted by the Central Govt. for basic Scientific Research in universities. In its Report, the Task Force has *inter alia*, recommended creation of 1000 positions of Research Scientists at various levels, five fold increase in the number of Ph.Ds from Indian universities within a span of ten years with proper standards, promotion of formal linkage between the Universities and national level institutions including the CSIR laboratories through joint research projects and training, inbuilt component of research in post-graduate programmes pertaining to Science and Technology, upgradation of infrastructural facilities in universities to promote quality scientific research, and, creation of networking centers in Basic Sciences in leading Departments of Universities to promote collaborative research. The Task Force has been converted to an Empowered Committee to implement the recommendations. The University Grants Commission has been advised that while releasing grant-in-aid to the institutes of higher learning. 20% of the grant may be earmarked exclusively for research related activities. Universities are free to enter into Memorandum of Understanding with foreign universities for joint research collaborations.

Outlay for education sector

†1440. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the per cent of amount of Gross Domestic Product that is spent on reformation and development of higher education in India;

(b) whether there is a parity in the amount of money spent on this head in other countries of this world and in India;

(c) whether higher education in the country is totally dependent on Government assistance and because of paucity of funds, the adequate reforms and development are not being effected; and

(d) whether Government would consider to increase the percentage of expenditure on reforms and development of higher education?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Public expenditure on higher education sector as percentage of Gross Domestic Product is 1.03 (provisional) during 2007-08.

(b) Public expenditure on education sector as a whole as percentage of GDP is higher than India in respect of some countries like U.S. A and U.K while it is lower than India in some other countries like Pakistan and Bangladesh.

(c) and (d) The Central and State Governments have a crucial role to play in the education sector. Central Government has accorded high priority to higher education and has allocated Rs.84,943 crore for it during the XI Five Year Plan which represents nine times increase over the X Five Year Plan allocation of Rs.9,500 crore. The main thrust of the XI Five Year Plan is to expand the enrolment capacity in higher education with a view to provide greater access to it while ensuring reduction in regional, social and gender imbalances and improvement in quality. Several new institutes have been set up with a view to expend the enrolment capacity in higher education. Several steps have been taken to improve the quality of education. However, education being in concurrent list of the Constitution, State Governments have also to accord similar priority and allocate suitable resources to the sector.

Implementation of OBC reservation without creamy layer

1441. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of directives recently issued by the Ministry to central educational institutions, with regard to implementation of OBC reservation without creamy layer;

(b) the details of institutions that come under Schedule Six of the Constitution;

(c) whether Government has specified any courses at the post doctoral level where reservation is not applicable; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) In accordance with the order of the Supreme Court dated 14.10.2008 in the matter of IA No 3 of 2008 in Writ Petition (Civil) No 35 of 2007, Ministry of Human Resource Development has issued directions vide OM No. 1-1/2008-(III)U.I(A) dated 17th October, 2008 to all Central Educational Institutions (CEIs) to ensure that seats reserved for OBCs are filled by other eligible students only if they are vacant after admitting all eligible OBC students excluding the 'creamy layer'. It was further directed that each CEI shall ensure that maximum cut off marks of OBCs are not kept lower than 10% from the cut off marks for general category candidates.

(b) Following institutions/University come under Schedule Six of the Constitution:-

(i) Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Shillong

(ii) National Institute of Technology (NIT), Agartala

(iii) Northern-Eastern Hill University (NEHU), Shillong